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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Tachihara et al.

Serial No.:

10/008,941

Filed:

November 8, 2001

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2872

Examiner:

Lee E. Fineman

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch LLP 685 Third Avenue New York, New York 10017

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of December 16, 2003, kindly amend the above captioned

application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 5, 2004

Ronald E. Brown

Attorney

Signature

March 5, 2004

Date of Signature

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-1145, Order No. 001085.098263